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METHODOLOGY FOR NURSING SALARY FORECASTING.

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FINAL REPORT.

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This research report is presented as a competent treatment of the subject, worthy of publication. The United States Air Force Academy vouches for the quality of the research, without necessarily endorsing the opinions and conclusions of the authors.

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PHILIP FRULE, Colonel, USAF Vice Down of the Faculty

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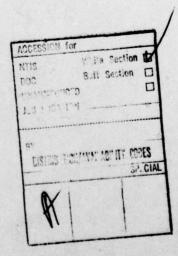
D. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The cost of health care has been spiraling for years, and the pressures to increase efficiency are becoming greater. This study presents several models capable of evaluating and relating hospital budgets to workloads. Specifically, we have developed models for forecasting nursing salary expenses in the OB/GYN ward, the Medical/Surgical ward, and for total nursing salary expenses. These models can be used for budgeting, measuring efficiency, and controlling nursing salary expense. The methodology can be applied to other wards within the hospital for monthly and yearly nursing salary predictions.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

																								Ī	AGE
LIST	OF FIG	URES.		•		•	•	•			•	•				•		•	•		٠			•	2
INTR	ODUCTION	N			•	•			•			•			•	•							•	•	3
THE	BUDGETI	NG PR	OCES	s.	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•						3
METH	ODOLOGY						•		•		•	•	•					•		•					6
	Mode1																								
	Mode1																								9
	Multi	ple V	arial	ble	R	eg	re	88	10	n	Mo	de	18	3.	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	11
RESU	LTS		• •		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	12	•		•		•					11
	0. B.	Ward	Nurs	sin	2	Sa	1a	ri	es																13
	Medica																								
	Total																								
	Workle																								
	Salar																								
CONT	INUING 1	RESEA	RCH.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	21
CONC	LUSION						•																		22
APPE	NDIX A-	-TOTA	L HOS	SPI	TA	L	SA	LA	RY	E	EXE	EN	ISE	z.							•				23
APPE	NDIX B-	-о.в.	NUR	SE	SA	LA	RY	E	XP	EN	ISE													•	30
APPE	NDIX C-	-MEDI	CAL/S	SUR	GI	CA	L	NU	RS	E	SA	LA	RY	7 1	X	EN	ISE								35
APPE	NDIX D-	-DETR	UTH I	REG	RE	SS	IO	N	AN	AL	YS	IS		•	•	•			•			•	•	•	40



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	WORKLOADS AND SALARIES VS. TIME	. 7
2	O.B., MEDICAL/SURGICAL, AND TOTAL SALARY REGRESSION FORECAST MODELS, WITH THEIR	og o
	CORRESPONDING INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	. 10
3	MULTIPLE REGRESSION MODELS FOR THE FORECASTING OF HOSPITAL SALARY EXPENSES WITH ACCOMPANYING	
	STATISTICS	. 12
4	CHARACTERISTICS OF KEY VARIABLES	. 15
5	O.B. NURSE SALARY VS. TIME	. 17
6	MEDICAL/SURGICAL NURSE SALARY VS. TIME	. 18
7	TOTAL SALARY VS. TIME	. 20

INTRODUCTION

The cost of medical care in the United States has been spiraling for years. The military, as a provider of health care services, is accutely affected by these rising costs. With the military budget being stretched as far as possible, any increase in the efficiency with which the military can provide health care will ease the military's budget problems. Until recently, the military hospital simply did not feel the need to operate on a tight budget.

This study will explain a group of models capable of evaluating and then linking budget expenditures to hospital workloads. The models presented in this study tie hospital expenses to workload, specifically in the area of Nursing Salary Expense. We envision that the military hospitals would gain a great deal by employing similar econometric models relating workload to budget. The type of models presented in this study serves to increase hospital operating efficiency and ultimately to reduce hospital costs.

THE BUDGETING PROCESS

The budget is being used extensively in both profit and nonprofit organizations to control costs. A properly designed budget can serve as a plan for action, a communicative device to inform employees of management goals, a motivation aid to cost conscientiousness, and finally a control device for monitoring performance. The concept of budgeting is not new to hospitals. Some administrators appear to use budgets more effectively than others, but all will agree that the budget is an important tool. As noted earlier, budgets are an important management control technique in profit organizations; however, they are the primary tool used to control costs in non-profit organizations where the profit measurement factor is not available. Proper budgeting may be the 'sin qua non' in non-profit organizations, such as in hospitals where it is extremely difficult to measure output. Factors such as quality and intensity of care provided serve to confuse conventional output measurement totals like patient days or number of procedures.

The input (resources consumed) side of the budget is relatively easy to measure. Since we know what has been spent, the primary problem becomes one of determining the actual outputs achieved. The actual output can vary from the expected output levels for which the budget was prepared. Given the variance from planned output, what are the inputs that should be used to most efficiently achieve the actual level of output? We have found that many hospitals currently compare actual expenditures against planned budgeted amounts without regard to these variations in output.

The model presented in this paper reinforces the flexible budget concept and provides an understanding of the nature of fixed and variable costs. Most organizations encounter two types of costs. The first type varies directly with the volume of output being achieved. For example, the number of patients in a

ward should influence the costs for drugs, meals, and some other individual services. This type is considered "variable costs."

Conversely, some costs, such as building, utilities, insurance, etc., vary directly with the number of patients. These costs are commonly referred to as "fixed costs." For example, the number of beds, the administrative staff, and the depreciation expense would not be expected to increase with the addition of one more patient. The concept of flexible budgeting stresses that variable costs are the only costs that should change with the output. Therefore, the budget for different patient loads can be determined and actual expenditures measured against the budget for the actual output. This measurement removes the impact of a volume variance from the analysis and allows management to concentrate on controllable factors, such as spending and efficiencies.

Although simple in concept, the major difficulty comes in analyzing those costs that are both fixed and variable. For example, two nurses may be able to provide service to five patients. The addition of a sixth patient means that another nurse must be hired. Clearly, the sixth patient should not be charged for the entire costs of the third nurse because a seventh patient can now be added without incurring additional nursing salary expense. These costs, typically called semi-variable (or "semi-fixed"), cause considerable difficulty in the implementation of a flexible budget concept. Many hospitals use patient days as a valid output

measurement, but this figure is <u>not</u> the sole determinant of changes in total costs. The models developed in this paper will suggest other good measures, and hopefully allow administrators to more fully appreciate the potential of a flexible budget.

METHODOLOGY

In order to implement a flexible budgeting process, we developed statistical models which can be used both to predict the level of variable costs and also to determine what specific workload (output) factors explain the level of costs incurred. With the enthusiastic cooperation of a local non-profit 400-bed general hospital, we took a careful look at the time-phased trends in each ward's workload, nursing manhours, nursing salaries, and the total hospital's salaries for each month. (Total salary expense is 70% nursing salaries.) Thirty-five consecutive months of data starting from October 1974 were used in the development of the model, and we purposely restricted ourselves to using data from the Hospital Administrative Services (HAS) reports for future inter-hospital comparisons. As of this writing, models predicting nursing salaries for the O.B. ward, the Medical/Surgical ward, and for total hospital salary expense have been developed. Figure 1 contains a graph of total nursing salaries over time; it shows that the nursing salaries are increasing over time at a steady rate. This rise is alarming when one studies the workload indicators over time and learns that,

A ale

for example, the workload in the 0.B. ward is steadily decreasing over time using any number of measures: deliveries, newborn days of care, etc. When the hospital management was confronted with the reality of a decreasing workload and increasing salary costs, they were quick to respond with standard answers pointing to increased case complexity and lower pay scales in the past that had caused recent salary increases to "catch up." Yet, data from the 0.B. ward could not substantiate the case mix claim. We recognize that normal salary increases would cause some cost increases in relationship to the workload, so many of the resulting models allowed for this inflation. The need for better management information for effective planning and control became even more evident; hospital managers definitely needed better information so they could anticipate rather than react in their decisions.

The HAS data from the Medical/Surgical ward further supported this need. Figure 1 again indicates the decreasing workload, yet this decrease in workload is not indicative of a similar decrease in Medical/Surgical ward nursing salaries. Our goal, again, was to develop a model that would allow the nursing supervisor to predict the level of costs that should be incurred for various levels of workload. This type of information would allow the supervisors to better plan their expenses and to measure the performance at the end of each month.

Model Development--Stage One

The first phase of developing such a model was the collection of the time-phased data which, unfortunately, revealed that costs were increasing when workload was decreasing. This rather startling observation caused management to start investigating trends, only to discover that inflation was not the cause and that levels of inefficiency were increasing without an adequate explanation.

(When cost figures were deflated using GNP deflators for each month, an increasing cost relationship remained.)

Model Development--Stage Two

The second phase of research was the development of regression models that could predict nursing salaries based upon historical cost and workload data. These models were developed from a great many iterations using the DETRUTH regression option available as software on a Burroughs 6700 computer. The resulting models in Figure 2 were very effective in predicting salary costs for both the 0.B. and Medical/Surgical wards based upon planned workload. Further, the existence of a flexible budget model allowed the nursing supervisor to control the nursing salary costs for these two wards by making monthly comparisons of forecast vs. actual costs for the output achieved. Note that we are using historical data with historical efficiencies, and the predicted salary costs for each ward are built upon their own past experience. By removing the inflationary trend in salaries, the model would suggest that the level of efficiency on the ward should remain constant.

MODEL 1

Dependent Variables

Independent Variables

O.B. Nursing Salary

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These models were developed from .

0.B. Admissions

O.B. Patient Days

Time

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Medical and Surgical Nursing Salary Medical and Surgical
Admissions

Medical and Surgical Patient Days of Care

Total Discharges

Time

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Total Salary Expense

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of forecast vs. actual costs for the

Total Discharges

O.B. Nursing Salary

Time

Figure 2. O.B., Medical/Surgical, and Total Salary Regression Forecast Models, with their Corresponding Independent Variables At this stage, we operated the model in parallel with existing budgeting systems, and the nursing supervisor was given the predicted budgets each month for three months. By comparing actual costs with the predicted costs from the model and integrating management judgment on large deviations with the model's prediction, the nursing supervisors gained confidence in the technique.

Multiple Variable Regression Models

Three multiple variable regression models were formed to forecast and explain variations in O.B. Nurse Salary Expense, Medical/Surgical Salary Expense, and Total Hospital Salary Expense. For each of these dependent variables, many independent variables were evaluated in numerous combinations to attempt to model the dependent variable. For each dependent variable a final model is presented. The significant results and conclusions obtainable from these three models are shown in Figure 3.

RESULTS

The findings of this study fall into two interrelated categories. First, we have developed and analyzed nine single variable simple regression models relating workload and nursing salary to time. Second, we have developed multiple regression models for O.B. Ward Nurse Salary, Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary, and Total Hospital Salary Expense. These models are capable of forecasting Salary Expense values from workload input variables.

MODEL	R ²	F-Statistic	Average Residual Error	Average Percent Error
O.B. Nyrsing Salary	.72	22.16	\$700.2	3.7%
Medical & Surgical Nursing Salary	.63	14.92	\$7703.7	3.4%
Total Salary	.92	121.48	\$18,256.9	2.1%

Figure 3. Multiple Regression Models for the Forecasting of Hospital Salary Expenses with Accompanying Statistics

O.B. Ward Nursing Salaries

The first series of models developed in this study involves the hospital's O.B. ward. Detailed analysis of data showed that the key variables indicative of O.B. workload were newborn days of care and deliveries, and both were inversely related to time. Over the 35-month period of model evaluation, deliveries fell from a high of 169 to a low of 72, an almost linear decrease of 48 percent. Newborn days of care, over the same 35 month period of evaluation, declined over 56 percent. O.B. nurse salary, when similarly evaluated, was directly and positively related to time and increased by nearly 47 percent.

The above results describe an inverse relationship between workload and total salary expense over the 35 months studied. This surprising result, only partially explained by salary inflation, emphasizes the need for more efficient salary budgets and more effective control procedures.

Medical/Surgical Ward Nursing Salaries

The conflicting workload/salary trends uncovered in the O.B. model were further substantiated by an examination of the hospital's Medical/Surgical ward data and the hospital's total salary expense. Medical/Surgical workload indicators all pointed towards a decreasing volume of Medical/Surgical ward patients. Medical/Surgical patient days of care dropped from a high of 10,718 to a low of 6,949 with the trend line indicating a 35 percent decrease

over the 35 months evaluated. Medical/Surgical Admissions showed a drop of 36 percent while medical/surgical nursing salary expense increased over 31 percent. The trend once again indicates rising costs and diminishing workloads.

Total Hospital Salaries

When the total salary allocation for the hospital was examined, we observed an upward trend of over 51 percent during the 35 months. During this same period of evaluation, total discharges, a measure of aggregate hospital workload, declined by over 26 percent.

Workload and Cost Trends

Figure 4 summarizes our workload and cost analysis. The six workload variables evaluated all showed a substantial decline over the past three years. During this time, salary expense rose 40 percent. More interesting, maximum workloads tended to occur in 1974, while maximum salary expenses occurred in 1976 and 1977. The conclusion we can draw is that hospital efficiency is declining at a constant rate especially since case complexity is constant. Figure 1 substantiates this conclusion. The factor analysis summarized in Figure 4 brought the problem of inefficient and ineffective budgeting to the hospital's attention.

	Maximum Value	Date	Minimum Value	Date	% Change in Value of Trend Line
Newborn Days of Care	532	Nov 74	235	Jan 77	56% Decrease
Deliveries	169	Nov 74	72	Feb 77	48% Decrease
0.B. Nurse Salary Expense	\$ 21,420	Mar 76	\$ 14,627	Mar 74	47% . Increase
Medical/ Surgical Admissions	1,442	Nov 74	927	Feb	36% Decrease
Medical/ Surgical Patient Days of Care	10,718	Dec 74	6,949	Sep 77	35% Decrease
Medical/ Surgical Discharges	1,584	Aug 74	908	May 77	43% Decrease
Medical/ Surgical Nursing Salary Expense	\$247,330	Ju1 76	\$188,024	Nov 74	31% Increase
Total Discharges	1,587	Jan 75	1,167	0ct 76	26% Decrease
Total Salary Expense	\$973,911	Aug 77	\$642,445	Nov 74	51% Increase

Figure 4. Characteristics of Key Variables

Salary Expense Forecasting

Figure 2 presents the content of the three multiple regression models developed by this study.

O.B. nursing salary was regressed as a function of O.B. admissions, O.B. patient days of care, and time and the results presented in Figure 5. This model has been extremely accurate in forecasting O.B. nursing salary expense. When used to predict O.B. nursing salary based upon workload predictions, this model was accurate within two percent. Over the 35 month period of model evaluation, the model's average percent variation from actual nursing salary was 3.7 percent. The coefficient of Multiple Determination (R²) was equal to .72, and a test of this model's F-statistic indicates that with a probability of .999, a relation exists between the dependent variable (O.B. Nurse Salary) and the set of independent variables.

Medical/surgical nursing salary varied as a function of medical/surgical admissions, medical/surgical patient days of care, total hospital discharges, and time. Over the 35 month period of model evaluation, this model's average percent variation from actual medical/surgical nursing salary was only 3.4 percent as shown in Figure 6. The model's coefficient of Multiple Determination is .63, and a check of this model's F-statistic also reveals that, with a certainty of .999, a regression relationship exists between the dependent variable (Medical/Surgical Nursing Salary) and the independent variables.

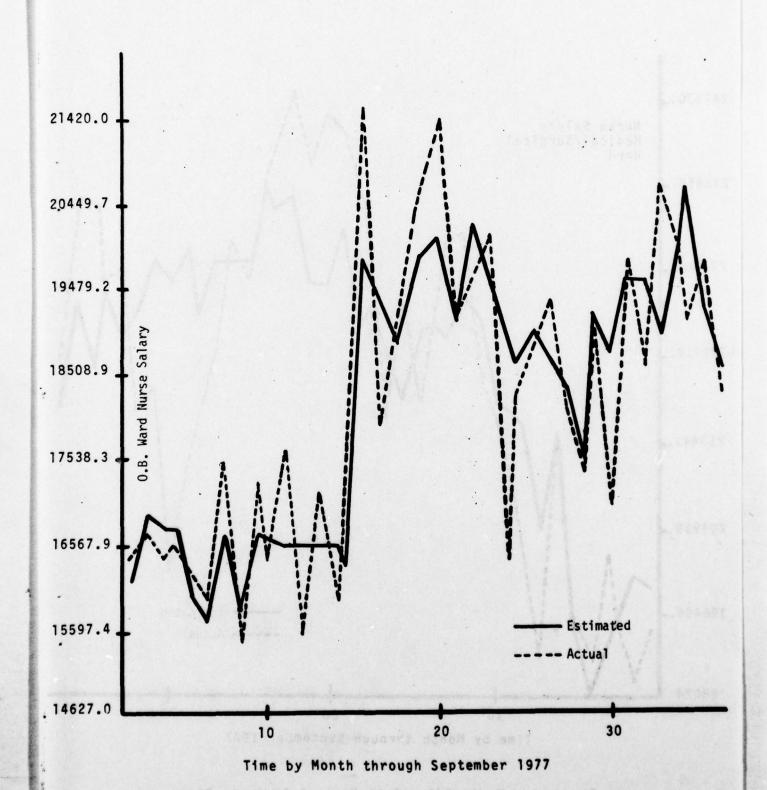


Figure 5. O.B. Nurse Salary vs. Time

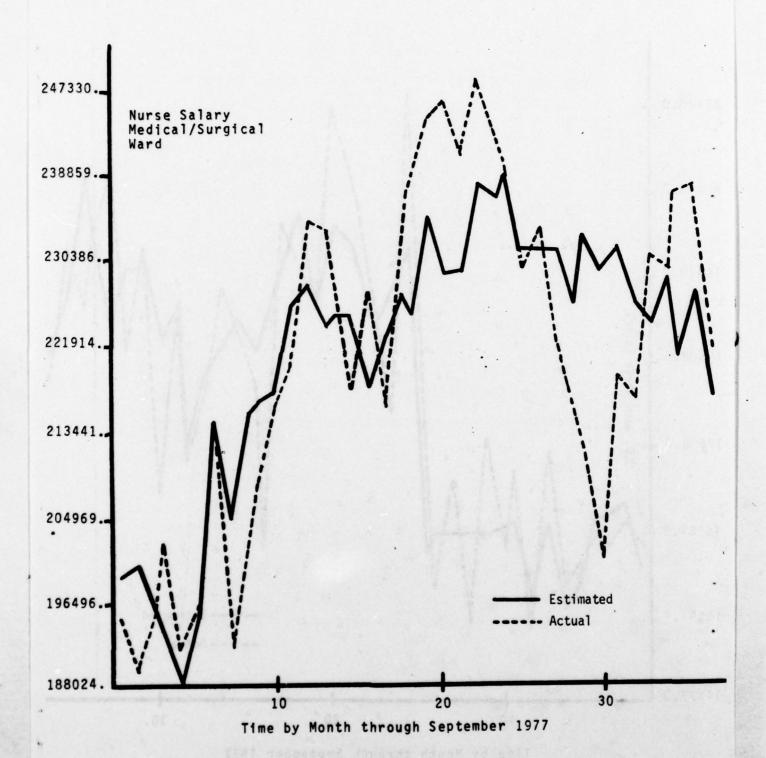


Figure 6. Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary vs. Time

The last model developed relates total hospital salary expense to total discharges, O.B. nurse salary, and time. The coefficient of multiple determination for this model is equal to .92, while the average residual error, attributed to this model over the 35 months, was only 2.1 percent. This model's F-statistic reveals that, with a certainty of .999, a regression relation exists between total salary expense and the variables used to model total salary expense (Figure 7).

Several points concerning the usage of the above described models should be clarified at this time. First, single variable time series regression analysis can serve as a useful indicator of trends in both cost and workload. These models allow hospital administrators to project, in a very simple and quick manner, workload and costs for future budget preparation. Second, the multiple regression forecast oriented models for nursing salary serve to inform administrators of what hospital budgets for nursing salary, based upon workload, should be in future months. These models can be evaluated with various workload assumptions, thus providing the administrator with an idea of flexible budget/workload relationships. In short, models forecasting nursing salary, as accurately as those described in this paper, can serve as a tool to allow administrators to employ a flexible hospital budget tied to workload projections.

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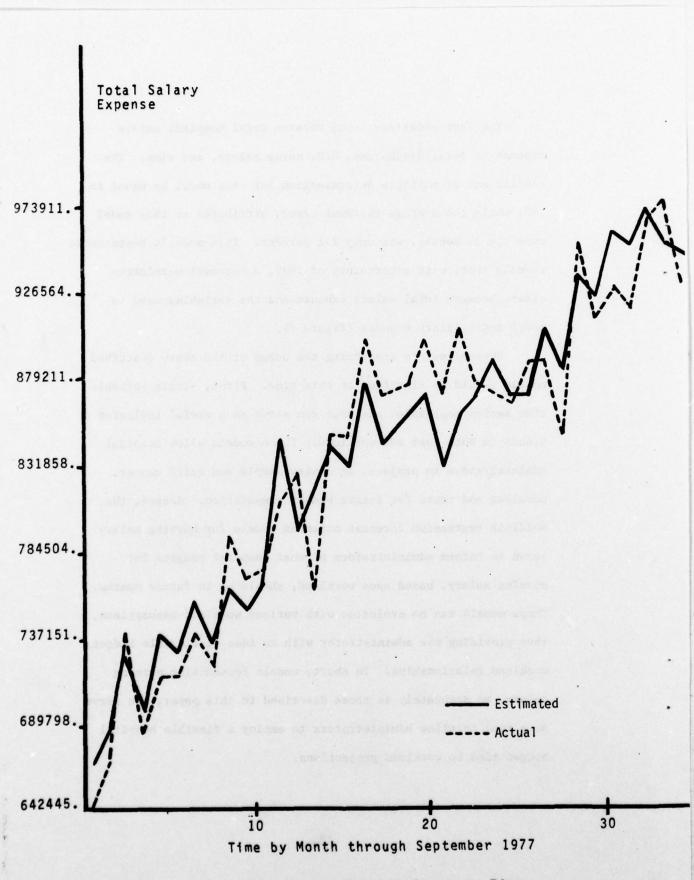


Figure 7. Total Salary vs. Time

CONTINUING RESEARCH

This research is currently being expanded into the remaining wards of the hospital. The results to date have been both encouraging to us and beneficial to the hospital. We are currently working with the nursing supervisors on each ward to carefully analyze and evaluate those data points that are beneath the regression line to further our understanding of the cost savings we witnessed during these "efficient" months. Our mutual goal is to obtain an understanding of both the low-cost and high-cost months, so that we might better capitalize on the observed efficiencies, modify our data to allow for any irregularities, and develop a new model which would give the hospital the necessary salary budget projections based upon anticipated efficiencies. This fine-tuned model would provide an even greater predictor of salary costs as a function of workload.

The question of predicting the demand side of the model remains a perplexing one for most hospital administrators. In order to alleviate this problem, we are currently developing a multiple regression model for the Colorado Springs area based on population trends, age pattern, level of care, and occupancy rates. This model should allow the hospital staff to better project the future level of services and to predict what the individual hospital can expect in terms of patient load and case mix.

CONCLUSION

The cost prediction models that were developed provide the nursing supervisor with monthly and yearly nursing salary predictions for two major wards as a function of workload. For any given level of monthly workload, costs can be estimated based upon historical levels of efficiencies. Costs that fall within the predicted levels can be considered normal, and management can focus its attention on the areas that are outside the expected behavior. Such issues as inflation, nurse skill mix, intensity of care, quality of care, and improvements in efficiency can be considered as possible justification for the observed deviations. The models developed are currently being used by the hospital studied, and the results obtained so far suggest that they are far superior to any existing management procedures. They provide the nursing supervisor with a technique to allow her to more effectively budget her costs using a flexible budget, and to control her operation by concentrating her attention to abnormal deviations in salary costs.

APPENDIX A

Total Hospital Salary Expense

NOTE: Appendix A describes, in detail, the multi-variable regression equation used to model Total Hospital Salary Expense.

The Model

Dependent Variable

Total Salary Expense, (Y)

Тс	tal Dis	charges,	(x ₁)	
C	B Nurse	Salary,	(X ₂)	

Total salary expense can be expressed in terms of the following mathematical expression:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon_i$$

A regression of this model yielded the following coefficients:

$$Y = 347,233 + 45.4 X_1 + 14.8 X_2 + 6938.2 X_3 + \epsilon_1$$

NOTE: ϵ_i = The regression error term associated with the prediction of each particular true value of Y.

NOTE: The average values for X_1 , X_2 , and X_3 respectively are 1400, 18000, and 19. These values tend to support the values found

for β_1 , β_2 and β_3 . The average values taken with the regression coefficients denote the fact that each of our variables is important to the prediction of Y, and no one variable overpowers the others.

Statistics

A. $R^2 = .92$

 \mathbb{R}^2 is the Coefficient of Multiple Determination. The use of the predictors X_1 , X_2 , and X_3 explains the total variation in Y by the proportion indicated over the variation that would be explained were \overline{Y} the only predictor. 92.16% of the variation in Total Salary Expense is explained by the above stated regression model.

B. $R_a^2 = .91$

 ${\rm R_a}^2$ is the adjusted Coefficient of Multiple Determination. As independent variables are added to any regression model, ${\rm R}^2$ must increase due to effects explained by the mathematical representation of Y-value dispersion.

SSTO = SSR + SSE

SSTO = Total Dispersion

SSR = Dispersion explained by the model

SSE = Dispersion not explained by the model

SSE must decrease with the addition of independent variables, while SSTO is constant for a given set of responses. The adjusted coefficient of multiple determination is defined so that it may actually become smaller when independent variables are added to the model. The adjusted R^2 will show the <u>true</u> contribution of the independent variables to the model's explanatory powers.

C. F-Test Statistic

The F-Statistic addresses the question, "Does a relationship exist between the dependent variable, Total Hospital Salary Expense (Y), and the set of independent variables (X_1, X_2, A_3) ?"

or:
$$H_0$$
: $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$

 H_1 : At least one β_i not equal to 0.

F-critical for a confidence level of .999 is 7.05.

The model's F-statistic is

$$F_{35}^4 = 121.48$$

Since 121.48 is greater than 7.05, it may be concluded with a certainty of 99.9% that a regression relation between the independent and dependent variables exists. The hypothesis \mathbf{H}_1 is, on the basis of this test, accepted and the null rejected.

D. T-Statistic

The T-Statistic answers the following question for each independent variable: "Should the independent variable be allowed to remain in this model given that all other independent variables are in the model?" (i.e., "what is the marginal contribution of each independent variable?")

or: H_0 : $\beta_i = 0$; given all other β_i are present in the model. H_1 : β_i not equal to 0; given all other β_i are present in the model.

T-Statistic	T-Critical	Confidence Level
.855	.854	.600
4.72	3.64	.999
10.370	3.646	.999
	.855 4.72	.855 .854 4.72 3.64

For each of the above referenced variables, the T-statistic is greater than T-critical. It may be concluded, at the appropriate confidence level, that β_i is not equal to 0, given all other β_i are present in the model, and that each independent variable is making an important contribution to the model.

E. Durbin-Watson Test

The Durbin-Watson test allows one to gauge the presence of autocorrelation in the model and is defined as:

$$D = 2 - 2 \rho$$
.

NOTE: The basic regression model assumes the error terms (ϵ_1) are either uncorrelated random variables or independent normal random variables. The model discussed in this appendix involves time series data. For this type of data, the assumption of uncorrelated or independent error terms is often not appropriate. Error terms which are correlated over time are said to be autocorrelated and result from the omission of key variables from the model. When the time-ordered effects of such "missing" key variables are positively correlated, the error terms in the regression model will tend to be positively autocorrelated, since the error terms

include effects of the missing variables. Autocorrelation inflates the T- and F-test statistics so as to make these tests no longer strictly applicable.

The Durbin-Watson test uses the value of the autocorrelation parameter ρ to test for the presence of autocorrelation. (This is analogous to β_i in the regular model, but here it is a " β " for the error terms (ϵ_i).) If ρ = 1 then it may be concluded that the error terms are not independent and are autocorrelated.

or:
$$H_0 : \rho = [1]$$

 $H_1: \rho$ not equal to [1]

This test will only prove conclusively that autocorrelation exists. The test may, however, fail to indicate the presence of autocorrelation. For the model presented in this appendix, the Durbin-Watson test is equal to 1.58 and is greater than the upper bound of the Durbin-Watson critical test range. It may be concluded that \mathbf{H}_0 is to be rejected. At a confidence level of .99, it is concluded that the presence of autocorrelation is not indicated in this model.

F. Multicollinearity

NOTE: Multicollinearity exists when the model's independent variables are correlated among themselves, and no unique sum of squares exists that can be ascribed to an independent variable as reflecting that independent variable's effect in reducing the total variation of the dependent variable. As a result, the

individual estimated regression coefficients (β_i) may not be statistically significant. The fact that some or all independent variables are correlated among themselves does not, in general, inhibit the ability to obtain a good fit, nor does it tend to effect inferences about mean responses or predictions of new observations. It is interesting to note that high correlations among independent variables are frequently found in economic and business analysis.

Simple Correlation Matrix

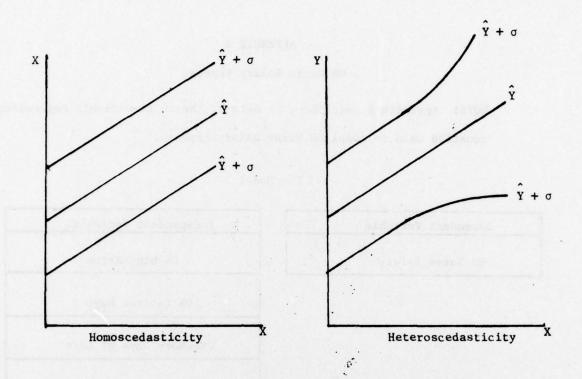
Variable	Total Discharges	OB Nurse Salary	Time
Total Discharges	1.00000	3741100	6736300
OB Nurse Salary	.37411	1.00000	+.758600
Time	6736300	.5758600	1.00000

None of the values shown in the correlation matrix indicate Multi-collinearity to be a problem. This fact is particularly true in light of an \mathbb{R}^2 value of .92.

G. Homoscedasticity

NOTE: The problem of heteroscedasticity results when the variance of the error terms is not constant over all observations.

(Homoscedasticity is the condition present when the error variances are constant.)



When heteroscedasticity is present, the estimates are unbiased and consistent; they are also no longer <u>minimum variance</u> unbiased estimaters.

Conclusion

The three variable regression model presented in this appendix is a statistically sound model for Total Hospital Salary Expense. The computer printout shown on page 56 demonstrates the model's ability to predict Total Hospital Salary Expense based upon Total Discharges, OB Nurse Salary, and Time. An important indicator of this model's ability to forecast Total Salary Expense is an average percent residual error of less than 2.5% over the 35 month period of model evaluation.

APPENDIX B

OB Nurse Salary Expense

NOTE: Appendix B describes, in detail, the multi-variable regression equation used to model OB Nurse Salary Expense.

The Model

Dependent Variable

OB Nurse Salary

OB Patient Days

Newborn Days of Care

Time

OB Nurse Salary Expense can be expressed in terms of the following mathematical expression:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon_1$$

A regression of this model yielded the following coefficients:

$$Y = 10166.4 + (-12) X_1 + 6.46 X_2 + 9.58 X_3 + 94.2 X_4 + \epsilon_i$$

NOTE: Average values for X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 respectively are 130, 200, 300, and 17. These values tend to support the values found for β_1 , β_2 , β_3 , and β_4 . The average values taken with the regression coefficients denote the fact that each of our variables is important to the prediction of Y, and yet no one variable is overpowering.

Statistics

A. $R^2 = .73$

R², the Coefficient of Multiple Determination, indicates that 73.5% of the variation in OB Nurse Salary Expense is explained by the above stated regression model.

B.
$$R_a^2 = .70$$

The adjusted coefficient of multiple determination shows the true contribution of the independent variables to the model's explanatory powers. R_a^2 indicates that 70.5% of the variation in OB Nurse Salary Expense is explained by the above stated regression model.

C. F-Test Statistic

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0.$$

 H_1 : At least one β_i is not equal to 0.

F-critical for a confidence level of .999 is 6.12.

This model's F-statistic is

$$F_{35}^5 = 20.88$$

Since 20.88 is greater than 6.12, it may be concluded that with a certainty of 99.9%, a regression relation between the independent and dependent variables exists. The hypothesis H₁ is, on the basis of this test, accepted and the null rejected.

D. T-Statistic

 H_0 : $\beta_i = 0$; given all other β_i are present in the model. H_i : β_i not equal to 0; given all other β_i are present in the model.

Variable	T-Statistic	T-Critical	Confidence Level
O.B. Discharges	-1.87	1.697	.90
O.B. Patient Days	4.32	3.646	.999
Newborn Days of Care	2.33	2.042	.95
Time	2.54	2.48	.98

For each of the above referenced variables, the T-statistic is greater than the value of T-critical. Thus, one may conclude at the appropriate confidence level, that β_i does not equal 0, given all other β_i are present in the model, and that each independent variable is making an important contribution.

E. Durbin-Watson Statistic

The Durbin-Watson test uses the value of the autocorrelation parameter ρ to test for the presence of autocorrelation.

$$H_0 : \rho = [1]$$

$$H_1: \rho$$
 not equal to [1]

This test will only prove conclusively that autocorrelation exists.

The test may, however, fail to indicate the presence of autocorrelation. For the model presented in this appendix, the Durbin-Watson statistic is equal to 2.78 and is greater than the upper bound of the Durbin-Watson critical test range. It may be concluded

that \mathbf{H}_0 is to be rejected. At a confidence level of .99, it is concluded that the presence of autocorrelation is not indicated in this model.

F. Multicollinearity

Simple Correlation Matrix

OB Discharges	OB Patient Days	Newborn Days of Care	Time	
1.000	.1656	3952	5948	OB Discharges
.1056	1.0000	4659	.6655	OB Patient Days
3952	4659	1.0000	7425	Newborn Days of Care
.5948	.6655	7425	1.0000	Time

None of the values shown in the Simple Correlation Matrix indicate multicollinearity to be a problem. This fact is particularly true in light of an \mathbb{R}^2 value of .73.

G. Homoscedasticity

A review of the error terms presented on page 55 shows the regression errors to be characterized by the condition of homoscedasticity. The presence of heteroscedasticity is not indicated. Thus, the estimates used in this model are assumed to be minimum variance.

Conclusion

The four variable regression model presented in this appendix is a statistically sound model for OB Nurse Salary Expense. The computer printout listed on page 52 demonstrates this model's ability to predict OB Nurse Salary Expense as a function of OB Discharges, OB Patient Days, Newborn Days of Care, and Time. An important indicator of this model's ability to forecast OB Nurse Salary Expense is an average percent residual error of 3.7% over the 35 month period of model evaluation. This model has been employed to forecast OB Nurse Salary Expense one month into the future based upon projected workloads. The model has been accurate within 5% of actual OB Nurse Salary Expense for these forecasts.

APPENDIX C

Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense

NOTE: Appendix C describes, in detail, the multi-variable regression equation used to model Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense.

The Model

Dependent Variable

Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense

Independent Variables
Time
Medical/Surgical Admissions
nik walenjiyya bixtide dixoo

Time Cubed

Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense can be expressed in terms of the following mathematical expression:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon_1$$

A regression of this model yielded the following coefficients:

$$Y = 110079 + 3135.1 X_1 + 55.5 X_2 + (-1.1)X_3 + \epsilon_1$$

NOTE: Average values for X_1 , X_2 , and X_3 respectively are 18, 1200, and 5800. These values tend to support the values found for β_1 , β_2 , and β_3 . The average values taken with the regression coefficients denote the fact that each of our variables is important to the prediction of Y, and yet no one variable is overpowering.

Statistics

A. $R^2 = .63$

 R^2 , the Coefficient of Multiple Determination, indicates that 63.40% of the variation in OB Nurse Salary Expense is explained by the above stated regression model.

B.
$$R_a^2 = .60$$

The adjusted coefficient of multiple determination shows the true contribution of the independent variables to the model's explanatory powers. $R_a^{\ 2}$ indicates that 60.26% of the variation in Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense is explained by the above stated regression model.

C. F-Test Statistic

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$$

 H_i : At least one β_i not equal to 0.

F-critical for a confidence level of .999 is 7.05.

This model's F-statistic is

$$F_{35}^4 = 20.21$$

Since 20.21 is greater than 7.05, it may be concluded that with a certainty of 99.9%, a regression relation between the independent and dependent variables exists. The hypothesis \mathbf{H}_1 is, on the basis of this test, accepted and the null rejected.

D. T-Statistic

 $H_0: \beta_i = 0$; given all other β_i are present in the model. $H_i = \beta_i$ not equal to 0; given all other β_i are present in the model.

Variable T	-Statistic	T-Critical	Confidence Level
Time	6.977	3.551	.999
Medical/Surgical	2.673	2.457	.98
Time Cubed	-4.763	3.551	.999

For each of the above referenced variables, the T-statistic is greater than the value of T-critical. Thus, one may conclude at the appropriate confidence levels that β_i does not equal 0, given all other β_i are present in the model, and that each independent variable is making an important contribution.

E. Durbin-Watson Statistic

The Durbin-Watson test uses the value of the autocorrelation parameter $\boldsymbol{\rho}$ to test for the presence of autocorrelation.

$$H_0 : \rho = [1]$$

 $H_1 : \rho$ does not equal [1]

This test will only prove conclusively that autocorrelation exists. The test may, however, fail to indicate the presence of autocorrelation. For the model presented in this appendix, the Durbin-Watson statistic is equal to 1.04 and is greater than the lower bound of the Durbin-Watson critical test range. It may not be

concluded that autocorrelation is present within this model. The test results show that the presence or lack of autocorrelation in this model is indeterminate.

F. Multicollinearity

Simple Correlation Matrix

496	Time	Medical/Surgical Admissions	Time Cubed
Time	1.0000	8542	.9192
Medical/ Surgical Admissions	8589	1.0000	78550
Time Cubed	.9192	~.7855	1.0000

The values for Time and Time Cubed are highly correlated. This correlation is expected as the latter variable is derived from the former. None of the other values shown in the Simple Correlation Matrix indicate multicollinearity to be a problem.

G. Homoscedasticity

A review of the error terms presented on page 53 shows the regression errors to be characterized by the condition of homoscedasticity. The presence of heteroscedasticity is not indicated. The estimates used in this model are assumed to be minimum variance.

Conclusion

The three variable regression model presented in this appendix is a statistically sound model for Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense. The computer printout listed on page 46 demonstrates the model's ability to predict Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary as a function of Time and Medical/Surgical Admissions. An important indicator of this model's ability to forecast Medical/Surgical Nurse Salary Expense is an average percent residual error of 3.5% over the 35 month period of model evaluation.

APPENDIX D

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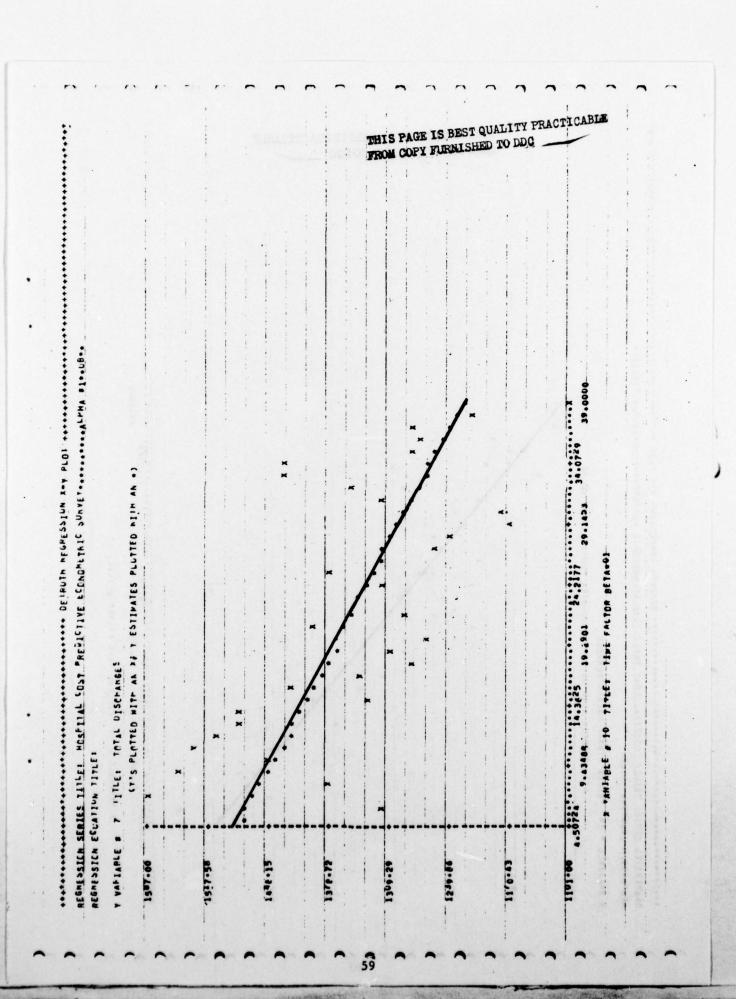
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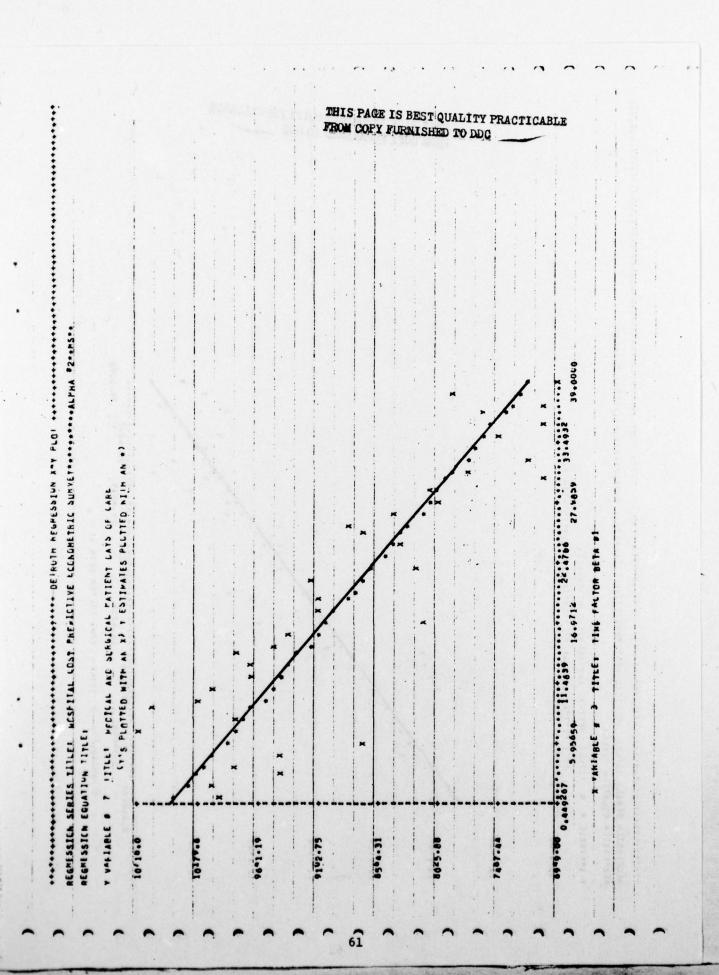
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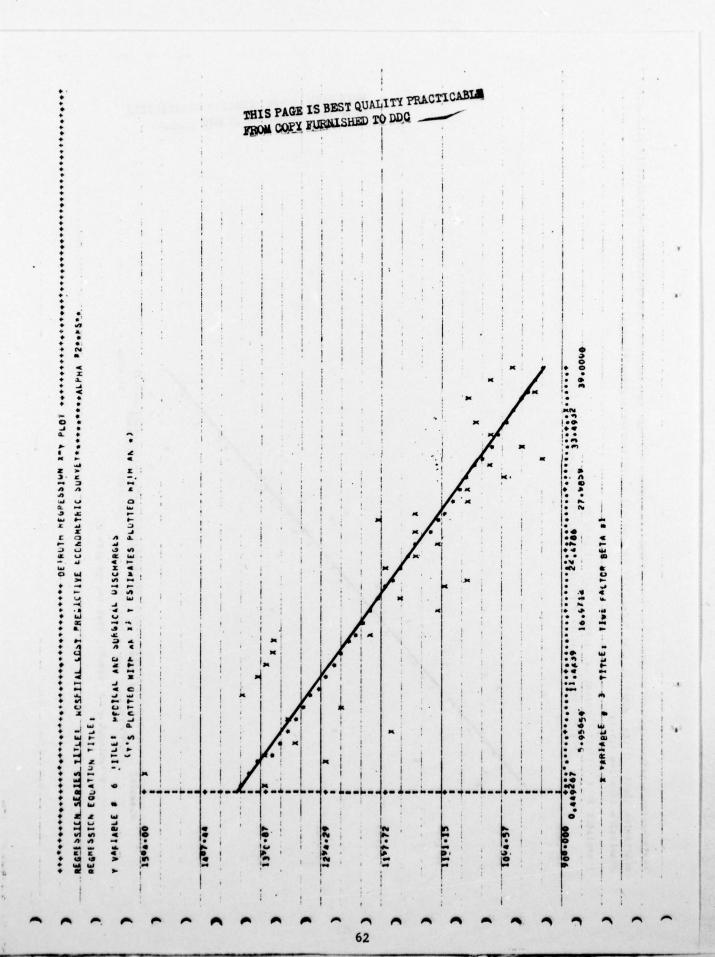
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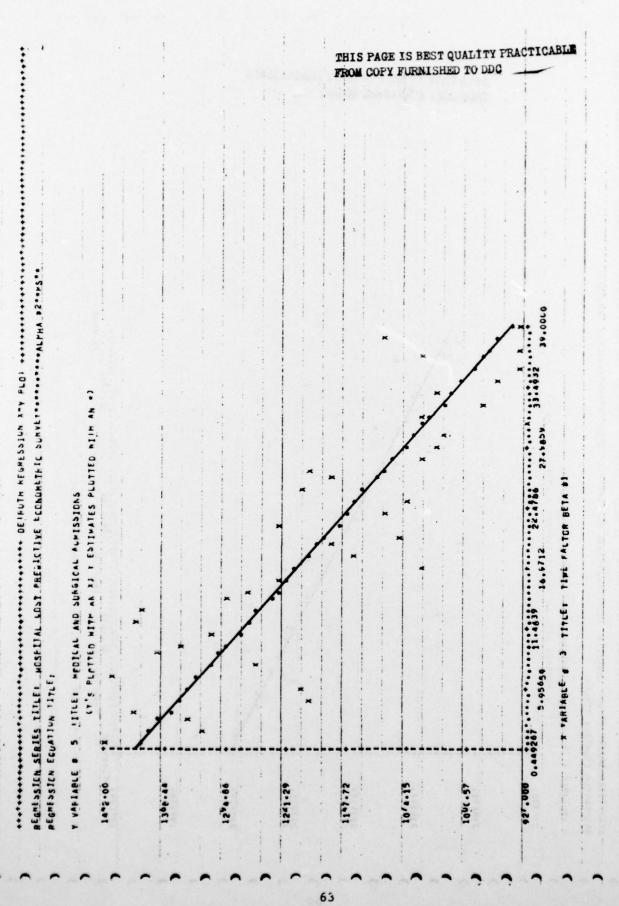
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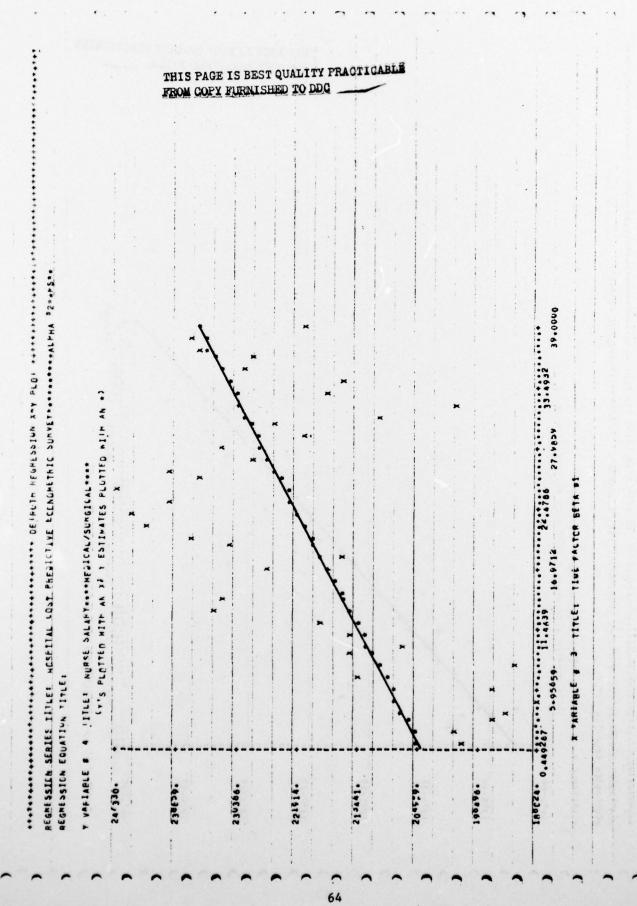


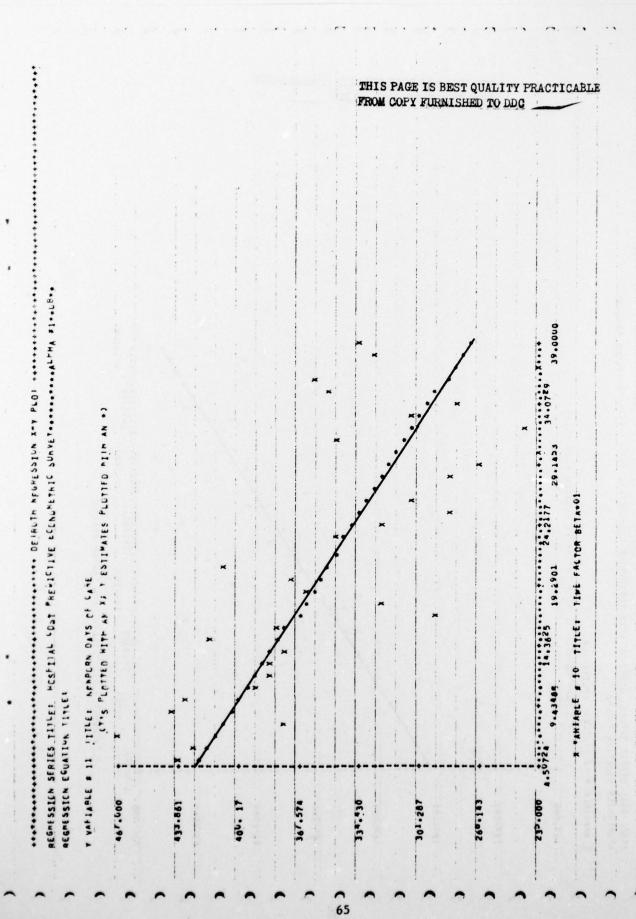
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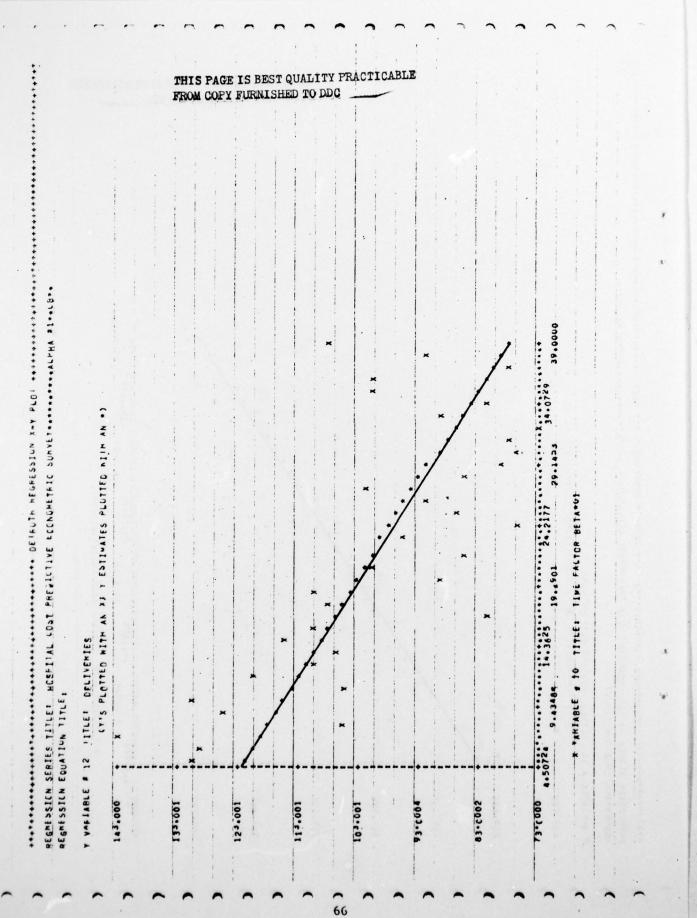












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